

SURVIVING SCHOOL: AURARIA CAMPUS KITCHEN

Campus Kitchens is coming to Auraria and we want your ideas, participation, and support!

Campus Kitchens is a national non-profit that has student-led chapters at 67 campuses across the country with more on the way! The program rescues would-be wasted food and transforms it into free healthy meals. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, the Auraria Campus kitchen idea is kicking off with \$4,000 from a student-led participatory budgeting process

The Campus Kitchen project proposal came in second place, just behind a textbook rental pilot indicating that projects focused on increasing access to needs like healthy food and educational resources are a priority for students on our campus. The first step was funding, and now that we have that we are working to build a program that will increase access to free healthy meals for our community and reduce campus food waste.

We are planning a regional summit on **Friday, April 26th** from 10:00-4:00 where students and faculty can learn more about the program, access training, and build community with other schools in Colorado creating their own Campus Kitchen program. Registration will be posting out next month.

Ways to get involved:

- Join the student leadership team and help design the program, build a student network, and receive training to safely rescue and transform would-be-wasted food.
- Teach a class or run a program? Consider integrating class curriculum into volunteer opportunities, research projects, or marketing campaigns.
- Have access to a commercial kitchen or possible food donations? Consider partnering with our Auraria campus Kitchen to help move the project forward.
- Volunteer! When we launch in the Fall we will need volunteers that participate in food recovery shifts, food transformation shifts, and food distribution shifts.
- Have an idea for a workshop or training for the Regional summit? Let us know!

If you would like to be added to the Campus Kitchen listerv and/or get more involved please email me at coby.wikselaar@ucdenver.edu.



THE
CAMPUS
KITCHENS
PROJECTSM

Happening Locally:

Homeless Class-Action Lawsuit Settled

The city of Denver settled a federal class-action lawsuit between all those experiencing homelessness in Denver (the class) and the city over the constitutionality of what are often referred to as “street sweeps” or “homeless sweeps.” The settlement was reached on February 27th and includes the following:

- Posting signs with seven days’ notice prior to large clean-ups.
- Posting written notice of regular cleanups, including days and hours and locations, of where those will take place.
- Affixing a 48-hour notice to unattended items rather than removing them (when said items aren’t posing a health and safety risk).
- Having all notices include locations and hours of storage facilities where property taken during a cleanup can be retrieved without fear of arrest.
- Placement of 200 lockers at the Minori Yasui Building Plaza (at the intersection of West Colfax Avenue and Tremont Place, across from the City and County Building).
- Expanding the number of trash cans in the Ballpark neighborhood, along the South Platte River trail and along the Cherry Creek bike trail.
- Creation of an advisory group consisting of people experiencing homelessness who will give feedback to the city on programs and policies every quarter.
- Potential creation of a "mobile health unit" funded by the city.
- Development of a formal notification system for people whose personal property has been removed from public places.

<https://www.westword.com/news/denver-and-homeless-reach-settlement-before-class-action-trial-11249155>

Happening Nationally:

Hunger Free Campus Grant in New Jersey

A New Jersey bill focused in increasing access to grants and funding for schools working to become “hunger-free college campuses” just passed the New Jersey Senate and is headed to the Governor. The grants made available would help colleges “address hunger statewide, leverage more sustainable solutions to address basic food needs on campus, raise awareness for available food services, and continue to build strategic partnerships at the local, state and national levels to address food insecurity among students.”

Assuming the bill passes on a state level, colleges would need to meet specific eligibility requirements to access the grant funding and gain designation as “hunger-free” campuses including:

- Establishing a campus hunger task force
- Have designated staff member to assist with SNAP applications
- Provide opportunities to use SNAP benefits at on-campus stores
- Provide at least one food pantry or another “stigma-free” program to access free food
- Create a “Swipe Out Hunger” program or designate a funds that provide free meal vouchers in place of Swipe Out Hunger (Swipe Out Hunger is a national organization where unused meal points get donated to other students or the community)

<https://njbiz.com/bill-establishing-hunger-free-campus-grant-passes-senate-heads-governor/>

You might be wondering who is sending this newsletter! My name is Coby Wikselaar. I am a graduate Political Science student at CU Denver serving as the Harding Fellow on Student Hunger and Homelessness. My position was created to identify and expand services, conduct research, and engage in advocacy that can help alleviate hunger and homelessness on our campus. I am not an "expert," nor do I have all of the answers, but I firmly believe that every person should have access not only to four walls and a roof, but also a home. I am excited to work with others committed to changing the structures that have created situations where people struggle to feed and house themselves. I will continue to publish monthly newsletters, and to identify current models and projects across the country that address the problem. I am here to provide resources for you! Please contact me with questions, comments, or stop by my office and I will do my best to connect you with what you need. Want to share a thought? Share anonymous feedback: <https://goo.gl/forms/NRtxWOkvDm3IZVRX2>

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